(a) whether Government have taken any fresh initiatives to restore and normalise the political process in Kashmir during the recent months, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the results of the efforts made to normalise the situation in the Kashmir valley ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Efforts are consistently being made by the Government to restore normalcy in the State. The Minister of State for Internal Security visited the State a number of times and met a large number of people at different levels. Several administrative changes have also been made with a view to further activising the local administration. Additional Financial assistance has been given to the State Government with a view to stepping up development activities. Efforts are also being made to encourage the political elements in the State to activate their cadres. At the same time, sustained pressure is being maintained on the militants to reduce the fear of the gun, and some significant successes have also been achieved.

This is a continuing process. It is expected that the various steps that are being taken will lead to improvement in the prevailing environment and help in moving towards the restoration of normalcy, even though it can be expected that the militants will make all efforts to try and thwart the process.

Production of Crude Oil Natural Gas in Different Locations

1172. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of Crude Oil and Natural Gas production in different locations of the country varies widely;

(b) if so, what is the maximum and minimum Crude Oil and Natural Gas production rate in different locations;

(c) whether Government have formulated any action plan by setting a target for narrowing the gap in both production rates; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this gap is proposed to be reduced under the target set by Government and by when the target is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Depending upon the quality of crude, nature of the under-ground reservoir, state of depletion, etc., the production rate of crude oil veries from location to location. The rates of production are dependent also on the producible and recoverable reserves of crude oil.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Allotment of LPG and Kerosene Dealerships to M.Ps.

1173. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of Members of Parliament to whom LPG and Kerosene dealerships have been allotted during 1992; and

(b) what is the total number of Members of Parliament on whose recommendation LPG and kerosene

dealerships have been allotted during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) None, Sir.

(b) Discretionary allotments of dealerships/distributorships are made by Government on compassionate grounds in deserving cases, keeping in view the circumstances of each case, including the recommendation of MPs and other VIPs.

Response from Foreign Investors in Regard to Oil Fields in Assam

1174. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as widely reported in the press, the response from foreign investors in regard to oil fields in Assam, has so far been luke-warm;

(b) if so, whether this lack of interest in the Assamese oil fields by the prospective overseas investors is attributed to chronically trouble-prone situation in Assam;

(c) what steps Government propose to take towards restoring normalcy in Assam both in the regional and national interests; and

(d) whether Government would make it mandatory for the overseas investors to take up Assam oil field sites, alongwith no-risk oil sites, elsewhere in the country to make it a more balanced package ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No offer has been received either from Indian or foreign investors for development of the oil fields in Assam.

(b) and (c) Since bidding by companies is based on their evaluation of commercial and other aspects, it is not possible to state specific reasons for the absence of offers.

(d) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

1175. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Government are contemplating a hike in the prices of petroleum products and L.P.G. in the wake of current flare up in crude prices in the International market; and

(b) whether Government have any realiable market forecast system to monitor international crude market trends and what steps Government propose to take to evolve long-term crude contracting policies ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) To ensure and derive maximum price advantage crude oil is purchased through Long Term Contract with various national oil companies and also through spot purchases. In doing so, the prevailing international market rates of different types of crude suitable for use in Indian Refineries are closely monitored by IOC.